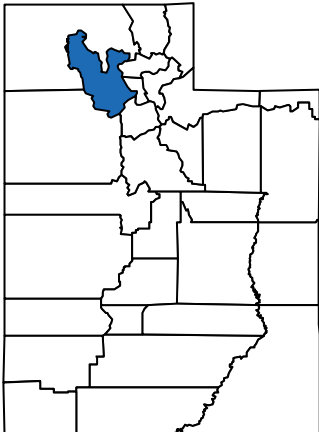


State of Utah

State-level Planning Summaries

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**



**Utah Governor's Office
of Planning and Budget**
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-1027
www.planning.utah.gov

**December
2003**

UTAH DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES, State Water Plan, 2001

Summary & Key Issues	Utah is the second-most arid state, and comprehensive water planning is a State responsibility. The majority of the State's water is in its least populated areas. Utah's environment requires careful attention to the preservation of riparian and floodplain corridors, efficient water storage and conveyance facilities. Agricultural lands constitute 80% of water use, and most existing water supplies are fully allocated. The projected growth in municipal and industrial use will likely come from conversion from agricultural use.
Historical Abstract	Comprehensive water planning is one of the responsibilities of the Division of Water Resources. The State is divided into eleven planning areas that are based on the eleven hydrologic river basins. The Plan identifies trends and makes projections for water use.
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that actively practice cloud seeding are seeing an increase of 13% in total runoff, and at an average cost of \$1 per acre foot, (p.xiii & 49). • Utah's variable water supply emphasizes the important role of water storage development, (p.16). • In rural areas, agriculture growth has slowed tremendously, (p.17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State has about 1.5 million irrigated acres, and about 0.5 million acres of dry-crop land. ○ Most of the land is devoted to raising feed for the livestock industry. • In the Cedar/Beaver and Kanab Creek/Virgin River and Sevier River basins, the existing water supply has been nearly fully developed. In the Southeast Colorado River, Uintah, and West Colorado River basins, many localized areas have been fully developed. Due to federal environmental regulation and economic conditions, it is unlikely that significant agricultural expansion will occur, (p.21). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipal and industrial demand is projected to increase substantially in every basin by 2050. ○ The greatest demand will be in Southern Utah, where it is projected to quadruple in some areas.

<p>Environmental Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah is the second-most arid state, (p.xi & 7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The average for the all the states is 30”, but Utah is only 13”. • Water quality topics that are of particular concern are maintaining the integrity of riparian and floodplain corridors, preserving wetlands from loss or degradation, maintaining instream flows for fish and wildlife, and recreational uses, (p.xiv & 56). • Approximately 87% of the precipitation that Utah receives is removed by the natural environment (through evaporation and evapotranspiration) before it reaches a stream or aquifer where it can be used. An additional 7% is removed by evaporation from an open body of water or transpiration from riparian areas after it is in an area where it can be used, (p.8). • Agricultural land uses about 80% of the developed water supply. The amount of water required per acre of irrigated farmland is roughly the same as the water required for urban development on the same acre, (p.35).
<p>Social & Cultural Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibility of making many local water-related decisions resides with local leaders, (p.4).
<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Among the unknowns that could affect Utah’s water future is the quantification of federal reserved water rights. These rights are associated with federal land reservations and Indian reservations, national parks, and national forests, (p.59). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Most federal reserved water right claims have not been resolved.
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the State’s water is already being used. Use can increase by roughly 10%, but most of it will be in the Colorado River drainage (away from the Wasatch Front), (p.xii). • Agriculture is expected to be the greatest user of water despite the projected more than doubling of population in Utah over the next 50 years, (p.xii & 17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Water will be made available through conservation, agricultural conversion, management strategies, and water development, (p.17). • The bulk of the State’s population lives in areas with the relatively smaller river systems. Conversely, the most significant rivers in the State are in the most sparsely populated areas, (p.9).

UTAH DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES, Utah's Forest Water Quality Guidelines, 2001

Summary & Key Issues	Utah's high elevation forests are the principal source of surface water and are critical recharge areas for most ground water sources in the State. The FWQGs are voluntary measures landowners, loggers, and resource managers can use to provide for the protection of the State's water quality.
Historical Abstract	The Utah Department of Natural Resources has created "Utah's Forest Water Quality Guidelines" (FWQG) to help landowners, loggers, and resource managers better understand the dynamic nature of these vital areas and their role in protecting water quality. The FWQGs are voluntary measures landowners, loggers, and resource managers can use to provide for the protection of the State's water quality. The document discusses pre-harvest planning, streamside management, roads, skid trails, landings and stream crossings, timber harvesting, site preparation, regeneration and revegetation, chemical management, prescribed fire, and forested lands. The Division also offers technical assistance to landowners to help them protect the value of their land and resources to meet present and future land management objectives.
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "While the majority of the State's forestlands are in federal ownership, Utah's private forestlands are of great importance contributing numerous benefits to the State's economy and society at large", (p.1).
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Utah's high elevation forests are the principal source of surface water and are critical recharge areas for most ground water sources in the State", (p.1&3). • Roads produce up to 90% of all sediment from forest management activities, (p.7).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Forests make an important contribution to Utah's way and quality of life by providing abundant resource benefits including wood products, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and clean air and water, (p.1).

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, & MINING
A Practical Guide To Reclamation In Utah

Summary & Key Issues	The Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining has composed a manual to assist mining operations in their efforts to reclaim waterways, handle soils, and revegetate. The Guide illustrates best management practices and can assist in the creation of mine plans.
Historical Abstract	Mining activity has been regulated by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining for 25 years. “In this 25 years, hundreds of diverse mined land disturbances have been restored and reclaimed by mine operators and by agency-effort cleaning up abandoned and bond-forfeited mines. At every site, some lesson was learned about how the next site could be done better. This manual represents an attempt to capture the very best methods which have been successful on the ground”, (p.4).
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The reclamation guide has two parts. The first part is written in progressive steps of the reclamation process from shaping Land to final steps of planting. The second part of the guide has fifteen ‘Technique Sheets’ which can be used as Best Management Practices. These were designed to be used in a variety of ways, including inserting them into Mine Plans or handing to contractors”, (p.4).

***DIVISION of FORESTRY, FIRE and STATE LANDS, Community Fire Planning Guidance
&
National Fire Plan, 2003 (USDA & DOI)***

Summary & Key Issues	There are several areas in Utah where there is an extreme danger of wildland-urban interface fire. Over 400 of Utah's communities have been classified "at risk" of wildfire. The National Fire Plan is a long-term investment that provides funding that the State can utilize for local planning. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands provides much of this funding for risk reduction and local planning of the wildland-urban interface.
Historical Abstract	The National Fire Plan is a long-term investment made by the US Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior was developed in August 2000, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability. It is a long-term commitment based on cooperation and communication among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes, and interested publics.
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several areas in Utah where there is an extreme danger of wildland-urban interface fire. Over 400 of Utah's communities have been classified "at risk" of wildfire. • With National Fire Plan funding, many local contractors throughout the State of Utah have been hired for hazardous fuel removal projects that reduce wildfire threats to communities and help revitalize local economies. • The Utah interagency community, under the National Fire Plan, has developed Hazardous Fuels and Wildland Urban Interface committees. These committees, under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, and the State of Utah oversight group, direct and prioritize community assistance, hazardous fuels, and wildland urban interface activities. These committees ensure that landscape treatment projects cover all land ownerships involved. • The Fire Plan provides funding that the State can utilize for local planning. Much of this funding has focused on risk reduction of the wildland-urban interface.

**Forest-Specific
Issues**

- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

UTAH DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, 2003-2007

Summary & Key Issues	Every County in UDOT Region 4, (with the exception of Millard, Piute, and Sanpete), has scheduled improvements before 2005. Many of the improvements are to major highways, but some are for local State-owned roads. (Region 4 includes three Forests). Improvements to I-15 in Juab County (Region 3) are in the “concept development” stage.
Historical Abstract	The Utah Department of Transportation’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a five-year program of highway and transit projects for the State of Utah. It is published each year and is a compilation of projects utilizing various federal and state funding programs and includes transportation projects on the state, city, and county highway systems, as well as projects in the National Parks, National Forests, and Indian Reservations.

UTAH DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES, State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2003

Summary & Key Issues	The intent behind the SCORP is to provide a strategic outdoor recreation reference document. The Plan notes that travel-related employment is substantial in all of the Counties in the Assessment area. The Plan was partially developed from results of a Statewide Recreation Needs Survey, where trail systems were one of the highest priorities in the rural Counties. A brief discussion of Governor Leavitt's "Public Lands & Outdoors" policy is included as well.
Historical Abstract	The major objective of the Utah SCORP is to provide information about outdoor recreation opportunities, and to improve the quality of life and health in Utah while providing facts and recommendations to help guide and justify allocations of scarce matching grant dollars.
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan estimates that travel-related employment is 10% in Six County, 15% in Five County, and 18% in Southeastern AoG, (p.41).
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan has an 18pg description of the State. Topics include physical features, land ownership, demographics, economics, and strategies for consideration, (p.8-26).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Division of Parks and Recreation has created an "Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council" to advise the Division on motorized trail matters, (p.49). The SCORP planning process included a Statewide Recreation Needs Survey. There were sharp differences between priorities for urban and rural survey respondents. The top rural priorities were municipal-related (i.e. swimming pool), but "trail systems" was identified as the fifth priority in Five and Six County AoGs, (p.104).

<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 74% of total land in the state is in public ownership, (p.23). • Governor Leavitt promulgated a “Public Lands & Outdoors” policy in his first term of office (intended to create a better balance between public land and environmental policies), (p.24). • Visitor statistics for National Parks [near the Forests] are reported. Many Parks see +1million visitors annually, (p.28 & 38). • Visitor statistics for National Forests are reported, (p.30).
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah experienced significant growth (30%) during the 1990’s, (p.24). • Utah is the sixth most urban state in the Nation, (p.24).

UTAH DIVISION of STATE HISTORY, Preserving Our Past Through Heritage Tourism, 1995

Summary & Key Issues	Heritage tourism is defined at the community level as the process of enhancing a community for the residents as well as for the tourists. The Forest Service is identified as an agency that has used the Heritage Tourism Plan. The Department of Agriculture is identified as a strategic partner for heritage tourism.
Historical Abstract	The intent behind the “Heritage Tourism Plan” is to encourage communities and individuals in Utah to develop and implement strategic heritage plans that weave history into tourism and economic development. Communities can use this plan as a framework.
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Utah needs to develop heritage tourism as a viable industry to contribute to the future economic stability of the state”, (p.4).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Heritage Tourism” is considered synonymous with “Cultural Tourism”, (p.3). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examples include: handicrafts, festivals and events, language heritage resources, gastronomy, work environment and technology, art and music, religion, architecture, education, sense of place, dress, and historic sites.
Forest-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1992 the Division of State History published <i>The State of the Past: Strategic Plan for Utah’s History</i>. Several organizations and agencies have taken action to implement the ideas contained in that plan. They include the U.S. Forest Service, ... the Division of State Parks, ... the Utah Travel Council, ... (p.4). • [Goal 1.7] “Expand “Passports in Time,” sponsored by the Forest Service, to ensure that visitors to the Forest Service Lands have authentic experiences”, (p.6). • [Goal 3.14] “Division of State History needs to partner with ... the Department of Agriculture”, (p.11).

UTAH DIVISION of WILDLIFE RESOURCES, Strategic Plan: 1998-2003
&
UDR, Internal / External Assessment Report, 2000

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>One of the primary goals of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is to maintain distribution and abundance of all other naturally occurring wildlife and native plant species. Wildlife-related recreation expenditures contribute significantly to Utah's economy, and wildlife expenditures provide a mechanism to move money from the Wasatch Front to rural Utah. Utah residents participating in hunting and wildlife watching decreased from 1991 to 1996 while resident anglers and nonresidents in all categories of use increased. Utah is one of the top five states regarding the number of rare native plants present. Utah residents supported protection of wildlife habitat when asked about a variety of land use trade-offs involving development of those lands.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is one of seven Divisions in the Department of Natural Resources with a role in planning for resource development. The mission of the DWR is to assure the future of protected wildlife for its intrinsic, scientific, educational, and recreational values. The Agency establishes long range objectives to monitor Utah's wildlife and preserves and enhances critical habitats which support broad systems of wildlife species.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CUP Completion Act (1992) provides for substantial mitigation and conservation measures associated with fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation lost through federal water development in Utah, (p.13). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The authorized funding level is substantial and should result in major benefits. • Tar sands on eastern Utah's Tavaputs Plateau and geothermal energy resources in south central Utah have substantial potential for development, (p.18). • Water rights have been purchased by DWR for fish and wildlife, but this has decreased since 1983 due to reduced budgets and the high cost of water, (p.19). • Wildlife-related recreation expenditures contribute significantly to Utah's economy, (p.23). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildlife expenditures provide a mechanism to move money from the Wasatch Front to rural Utah.

Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A-4: “Maintain distribution and abundance of all other naturally occurring wildlife and native plant species”, (p.8). • Goal B-1: “Increase the functioning of 10% of the currently impaired ecosystems by 2003”, (p.8). • Drought, as measured by the Palmer Drought Severity Index, has differed substantially over the last 20 years. In general, the period from 1977-86 did not have drought conditions while the next 10 year period has been characterized by long-term drought, (p.17).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah residents participating in hunting and wildlife watching decreased from 1991 to 1996 while resident anglers and nonresidents in all categories of use increased, (p.20). • In 1998, Utah residents overwhelmingly supported protection of wildlife habitat when asked about a variety of land use trade-offs (i.e. energy resource extraction, road and housing developments) where they threaten either wildlife or important habitats, (p.22).
Forest-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests in Utah are second to riparian areas in wildlife species diversity and abundance, (p.18).
Public Lands Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DWR participates in most recovery efforts as a cooperator with the USFWS. Historically, recovery programs have focused on a single species, but more recently have addressed multiple species and critical habitats, (p.14).
Regional Demographic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah has approximately 700 species of vertebrate wildlife that have been known to occur in the State within historical times, (p.14). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The wildlife community in Utah in the 1990s has changed from the one found 150 years ago, primarily due to the introduction of non-native species and changes in land management practices. • The number of vertebrate species identified by DWR as “species of special concern” increased from 64 in 1976 to 90 in 1998, (p.14). • Utah is one of the top five states regarding the number of rare native plants present, (p.17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presently, 21 plants in Utah are listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS.